

Core Seminar: The Domestic Politics of the United States II
Politics G53.1300.001
Spring 2007

Professors Sanford Gordon and Rebecca Morton

I. Introduction

This course builds on the topics covered in the fall semester class, delving in greater detail into some active theoretical and empirical controversy in the study of the domestic politics of the United States.

II. Contact and meeting Information

Professors

Sanford Gordon
19 W. 4th St., room 311
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Class Meetings

Tuesday, 6:20-8:20 19 W. 4th, Room 102

III. Student Responsibilities and Course Grading

Participation: 20%

Participating in seminar is an essential component of satisfactory completion of the course.

Presentations: 10%

In addition to normal participatory duties, each student will spend several of our meetings providing a public good as presenter of a particular text or perspective, which will include a 10-15 minute presentation at the beginning of the class.

Thought papers: 20%

Each student will write a one page, single-spaced paper each week, due by close of business (5pm) on the day before class. The paper may critically examine a particular

feature of a single reading, or draw comparisons among multiple readings for that week. At the end of the semester, we will drop the lowest short paper score. (This has the practical effect of permitting you to miss writing one paper.)

Research paper: _____ 50%

A final research paper will count for 50% of the grade. Details will be discussed in class. You should be thinking about your paper and discussing the topic with us by early to mid-February. Note that if your research interest lies primarily in topics covered toward the end of the class, you should be prepared to read ahead.

IV. Weekly Schedule

Week 1. January 16, 2007

Introduction and Orientation

Week 2. January 23, 2007

Elections I: Timing and Sequence

- Klumpp, T and Polborn MK, "Primaries and the New Hampshire effect," *Journal of Public Economics* 90 (6-7): 1073-1114 August 2006
- Battaglini, Marco, Rebecca Morton, and Thomas Palfrey, "Efficiency, Equity, and Timing in Voting Mechanisms," forthcoming, APSR, http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/faculty/morton/NonAnon_APSR_Seq_Voting_5Dec06.pdf

Week 3. January 30, 2007

Elections II: Minor Parties and Independent Candidates

- Hirano, Shigeo and James Snyder, "The Decline of Third Party Voting in the United States," *Journal of Politics*, February 2007, vol. 69, issue 1.
- Steven Callander, "Duverger's hypothesis, the run-off rule, and electoral competition," *Political Analysis*, 13 (3): 209-232 Summer 2005

Week 4. February 6, 2007

Public Opinion and Election Forecasting

- Andrew Leigh, Justin Wolfers (2006), "Competing Approaches to Forecasting Elections: Economic Models, Opinion Polling and Prediction Markets," *Economic Record* 82 (258), 325-340.
- Berinsky, Adam, "Silent voices: Social welfare policy opinions and political equality in America," *American Journal of Political Science*, 46 (2): 276-287 APR 2002

Week 5. February 13, 2007

Political Business Cycles

- Alesina, Alberto, Nouriel Roubini, and Gerald D. Cohen. 1997. *Political Cycles and the Macroeconomy*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press Chapters 1-4

- Morton, Rebecca B. "Partisan Electoral Cycles and Monetary Policy Games," in *Collective Decision-Making: Social Choice and Political Economy*, edited by Norman Schofield, Kluwer (1996).

Week 6. February 20, 2007

The Media I: Impact

- Gentzkow, Matthew, "Television and Voter Turnout," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121 (3): 931-972 AUG 2006.
- Stromberg, David, "Radio's Impact on Public Spending," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 119 (1): 189-221 FEB 2004.

Week 7. February 27, 2007

The Media II: Bias

- Baron, David, "Persistent Media Bias," *Journal of Public Economics*, 90 (1-2): 1-36 JAN 2006.
- Mullainathan S, Shleifer A, "The Market for News," *American Economic Review*, 95 (4): 1031-1053 SEP 2005.

Week 8. March 6, 2007

Campaign Finance

- Baron, David P. 1994. "Electoral Competition with Informed and Uninformed Voters." *American Political Science Review* 88: 33-47.
- Ashworth, Scott. 2006. "Campaign Finance and Voter Welfare with Entrenched Incumbents." *American Political Science Review* 88: 33-47.
- Stratmann, Thomas. 2006. "Contribution Limits and the Effectiveness of Campaign Spending." Typescript.

Week 9. SPRING BREAK

Week 10. March 20, 2007 (Note – this session may need to be rescheduled)

Lobbying

- Austen-Smith, David, and John R. Wright. 1994. "Counteractive Lobbying." *American Journal of Political Science* 38: 25-44.
- Baumgartner, Frank, and Brian Leech. 1996. "The Multiple Ambiguities of Counteractive Lobbying." *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 521-542.
- Austen-Smith and Wright. 1996. "Theory and Evidence for Counteractive Lobbying." *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 543-564.

Week 11. March 27, 2007

Legislative Bargaining

- Baron, David P., and John Ferejohn. 1989. "Bargaining in Legislatures." *American Political Science Review* 83: 1181-1206.
- Frechette, Guillaume R., John H. Kagel, and Steven F. Lehrer. 2003. "Bargaining in Legislatures: An Experimental Investigation of Open versus Closed Amendment Rules." *American Political Science Review* 97: 221-232.

Week 12. April 3, 2007

Minority Representation

- Griffin, John D. and Michael Keane, "Descriptive representation and the composition of African American turnout," *American Journal of Political Science*, 50 (4): 998-1012 OCT 2006
- Shotts, Kenneth W., "Does racial redistricting cause conservative policy outcomes? Policy preferences of southern representatives in the 1980s and 1990s," *Journal of Politics*, 65 (1): 216-226 FEB 2003
- Lublin, David and Steven Voss, "The missing middle: Why median-voter theory can't save democrats from singing the boll-weevil blues," *Journal of Politics*, 65 (1): 227-237 FEB 2003
- Shotts, Kenneth W., "Racial redistricting's alleged perverse effects: Theory, data, and "reality"," *Journal of Politics*, 65 (1): 238-243 FEB 2003

Week 13. April 10, 2007

Political Control of the Bureaucracy

- Moe, Terry. 1985. "Control and Feedback in Economic Regulation: The Case of the NLRB." *American Political Science Review* 79: 1094-1116.
- McCubbins, Mathew D., and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms." *American Journal of Political Science* 28: 165-179.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2006. "The Influence of Congress and the Courts over the Bureaucracy: An Analysis of Wetlands Policy." In *The Macropolitics of Congress*, edited by Scott Adler and John Lapinski. Princeton University Press.
- Gordon, Sanford C., and Catherine Hafer. 2005. "Flexing Muscle: Corporate Political Expenditures as Signals to the Bureaucracy." *American Political Science Review* 99: 245-261.

Week 14. April 17, 2007

Judicial Decision Making

- Landa, Dimitri, and Jeffrey Lax. 2006. "Rule Creation on Collegial Courts." Typescript.
- Cameron, Charles, Jeffrey A. Segal, and Donald Songer. 2000. "Strategic Auditing in a Political Hierarchy: An Informational Model of the Supreme Court's Certiorari Decisions." *American Political Science Review* 94: 101-116.

Week 15. April 24, 2007

Student Discussion